

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 OMB-01

AID-20 SY-10 RSR-01 PC-15 /151 W

----- 077998

O 161235 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4404

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5757

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: SHARMA REVIVES CIA CHARGES: PRIME MINISTER
CALLS FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH USA.

REF: NEW DELHI 5615

1. SPEAKING TO THE YOUTH CONGRESS IN NEW DELHI ON MAY 15, CONGRESS PRESIDENT S. D. SHARMA REPORTEDLY DENIED ANY NEED FOR HIM TO PROVE HIS ANTI- US CHARGES. AFTER HIS WARNING LAST FALL, HE NOTED, CIA ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN REPORTED IN THE PRESS. WHEN HE ATTACKED THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, THE SAME PARTIES (JANA SANGH, YNGRESS- O, SWATANTRA) AND THE " CAPITALIST" PRESS DENIGRATED HIM AND IN EFFECT DEFENDED THE US.

2. PRO- MOSCOW " PATRIOT" AND PRO- GOI " NATIONAL HERALD," WHICH HAD NOT COVERED SHARMA' S EARLIER CHARGES (REFTEL), CARRIED
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HIS SPEECH ON INSIDE PAGES. OTHER DAILIES BURIED IT. SHARMA'S PREVIOUS ALLEGATIONS DREW EDITORIAL CRITICISM FROM MADRAS "MAIL" AND KANNUKA- LANGUAGE "PRAJAVANI" OF BANGALORE, ACCORDING TO CONGEN MADRAS.

3. PRESSIERUST OF INDIA (KMTI) TICKER MAY 16 REPORTS PRIME MINISTER TELLING CONGRESS MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT IT DID NOT SERVE INDIA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS TO SPEAK AGAINST A PARTICULAR COUNTRY. EVEN THE USA HAD GIVEN UP HER OLD POLICY OF ANTI-COMMUNISM AND WAS NOW ADOPTING A PRACTICAL VIEW OF THINGS. CALLING US/ USSR AND COMMUNIST/ RIGHTIST RIVALRY IRRELEVANT TO THE CHANGING STRUCTURE OF WORLD POLITICS, THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT INDIA WISHED FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL. ALTHOUGH INDIA AND THE US DISAGREED ON MANY MATTERS AND THE US DID NOT APPRECIATE MANY INDIAN POLICIES, THIS SHOULD NOT COME IN THE WAY OF INDIA'S " BASIC POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP." THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INDIA HAD A FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH THE USSR, BUT THAT DID NOT MEAN INDIA AGREED WITH THE SOVIETS ON EVERYTHING

INDIA SOUGHT FRIENDSHIP EVEN WITH COUNTRIES WHICH HAD COMMITTED AGGRESSION HER, LIKE CHINA, ACCORDING TO THAMPTI REPORT. REGARDING FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY REMINDED HER AUDIENCE THAT SHE HAD ONLY MENTIONED THEIR ACTIVITIES ONCE IN ORDER THAT THE GOI, PARTY, AND PEOPLE WOULD BE ALERT TO AGENCIES' ATTEMPTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INDIA'S OPEN, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

3. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER MAY HAVE DECIDED TO TURN SHARMA OFF. THE EMBASSY WILL CONFIRM THE PTI REPORT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS AND REPORT FINDINGS SOON.
SCHNEIDER

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